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April 29, 2019

Rep. Amy Sheldon, Chair VT House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, & Wildlife

RE: Support of S113 – An Act Relating to the Prohibition of Plastic Carry Out Bags, Polystyrene, and Plastic Straws

Dear Representative Sheldon:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD). The NEKWMD is comprised of 49 towns throughout the counties of Caledonia, Essex, Orange, Orleans, and Washington.

The NEKWMD Board is generally in favor of any bill that reduces waste AND prevents pollution as is the case with S113.

While our Board understands that S113 does not necessarily address specific provisions of Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148), we would also appreciate your consideration of the items below.

- The hauler mandate to collect organic wastes should be eliminated.
- The 2020 ban for residential organics should be removed.
- Wine bottles and other alcoholic beverages (hard cider) should be added to the bottle bill.
- The tiered diversion schedule for organic waste diversion from commercial generators of food waste should be maintained and enforced.
- Haulers should be allowed to charge a separate fee for recycling.
- Solid Waste Management Entities should not be required to divert sheetrock and asphalt shingles from landfill disposal.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Most sincerely,

Paul Tomas

Executive Director